

Proverbs 10:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom: but the froward tongue shall be cut out.

Analysis

The mouth of the just brings forth wisdom, but the froward tongue shall be cut out. Righteous speech produces wisdom benefiting the community; perverse speech will be eliminated. The graphic imagery of tongue-cutting emphasizes divine judgment on destructive speech. While not prescribing literal mutilation, the verse warns that perverse speakers will be silenced - through death if not repentance.

Historical Context

Tongue-cutting was ancient Near Eastern punishment for false witness and slander. The imagery warns that destructive speech brings severe consequences, ultimately divine judgment.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Is your speech producing wisdom that builds up or perverseness that tears down?
2. What speech patterns need to be 'cut out' from your communication?

Interlinear Text

פִּי	צֶדִיק	יָבֹב	חֵכְמָה	וּלְשׁוֹן	תֵּהֱפֹכֹת
The mouth	of the just	bringeth forth	wisdom	tongue	but the froward
H6310	H6662	H5107	H2451	H3956	H8419
תִּכָּרֵת:					
shall be cut out					
H3772					

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 37:30 (Righteousness): The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment.

Proverbs 10:13 (Parallel theme): In the lips of him that hath understanding wisdom is found: but a rod is for the back of him that is void of understanding.